ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Gerunds and Infinitives Test 2

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Explanations

1. I have been putting off _____ a decision about school because I don't know exactly what I want _____.
✓ **D) making / to study**
Put off (= delay) is followed by the -ing form: **putting off making a decision**. **Want** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **what I want to study**.

2. The child disliked _____ his medicine.
✓ **A) taking**
Dislike is followed by the -ing form: **disliked taking his medicine**. The other options are wrong verb forms.

3. I was accused of _____ about my neighbour, but it wasn't true.
✓ **C) gossiping**
After a preposition such as **of**, we use the -ing form: **accused of gossiping**. Not **to gossip**, because **to** + infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

4. In school, you aren't allowed _____ or _____ in the classroom.
✓ **D) to eat / drink**
Be allowed is followed by **to** + infinitive: **you aren't allowed to eat**. When two verbs are joined with **or**, the second **to** is usually left out: **to eat or drink**.

5. You'll be sorry about _____ your time, but it will be too late then.
✓ **C) wasting**
After a preposition such as **about**, we use the -ing form: **sorry about wasting your time**. Not **to waste**, because **to** + infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

6. The children have been forbidden _____ ball in the garden. However, they really dislike _____ to their uncle.
✓ **D) to play / having to listen**
In the passive, **be forbidden** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **have been forbidden to play**. **Dislike** takes the -ing form, and **having to listen** is the -ing form of **have to**.

7. I remembered _____ the bread and the milk my mother had wanted, but I forgot _____ the newspaper.
✓ **C) to pick up / to get**
Remember to do and **forget to do** talk about a task you should do: **I remembered to pick up the bread** (I did it), **I forgot to get the newspaper** (I didn't do it). Not **getting**, because **forget doing** is about forgetting something you did in the past.

8. I intended _____ her the letter last week, but I have been unable _____ it to the post office because I've been ill.
✓ **D) to mail / to take**
Intend is followed by **to** + infinitive: **intended to mail**. The adjective **unable** is also followed by **to** + infinitive: **unable to take it**.

9. Can you fancy _____ in a long white gown and _____ to the ball _____ the prince?
✓ **C) dressing / going / to meet**
Fancy is followed by the -ing form, so both verbs after it take -ing: **fancy dressing … and going**. **To meet** shows purpose (why you go to the ball): **going to the ball to meet the prince**.

10. I dare you _____ with me! I can’t imagine your _____ against me.
✓ **E) to fight / winning**
Dare someone is followed by **to** + infinitive: **I dare you to fight**. **Imagine** is followed by the -ing form, here with a possessive: **imagine your winning**.

11. I expect _____ the results of the examination within a few days.
✓ **A) to get**
Expect is followed by **to** + infinitive: **I expect to get the results**. Not **to have to get**, because that means you are obliged to get them, which does not fit the sentence.

12. The child begged his mother _____ the new toys that he had seen advertised on television.
✓ **B) to get**
Beg + person is followed by **to** + infinitive: **begged his mother to get the new toys**. The -ing forms are not possible after **beg someone**.

13. Despite all their efforts, the lawyers could not prevent the jury and the judge from _____ a sentence of hard labour to the man.
✓ **B) giving**
The pattern is **prevent someone from doing something**. After the preposition **from**, we use the -ing form: **from giving**.

14. I anticipated _____ very hard in my new job but I was glad _____ away from the stress of my other job.
✓ **E) working / to have gotten**
Anticipate is followed by the -ing form: **anticipated working**. After **glad** we use **to** + infinitive, and the perfect infinitive **to have gotten** shows the action happened earlier. Not **getting**, because **glad** is not followed by the -ing form.

15. I am looking forward _____ Jill again. It's been three years since we last saw each other.
✓ **C) to seeing**
In **look forward to**, **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form: **looking forward to seeing**. Not **to see**, which is a common mistake.

16. The young woman avoided _____ through the strange neighbourhood at late hours.
✓ **B) walking**
Avoid is always followed by the -ing form: **avoided walking**. Not **to walk**, because **avoid** never takes **to** + infinitive.

17. Mr Smith was accused of _____ his neighbour's car, but I prefer _____ that he didn't.
✓ **E) stealing / to think**
After the preposition **of**, we use the -ing form: **accused of stealing**. **Prefer** is followed by **to** + infinitive when we talk about a choice in a particular situation: **I prefer to think that he didn't**.

18. My son told me that he just couldn't help _____ hurt by the attitude of his school friends. They had made fun of his inability _____ football.
✓ **C) feeling / to play**
Can't help (= can't stop yourself) is followed by the -ing form: **couldn't help feeling hurt**. The noun **inability** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **his inability to play**. Not **playing**, because **inability** takes **to** + infinitive.

19. I just can't imagine your _____ in the Amazon forests for three months. You've always needed to have someone _____ after you.
✓ **A) living / looking**
Imagine is followed by the -ing form, here with a possessive: **imagine your living**. After **have someone** + object, we use the -ing form for an ongoing action: **have someone looking after you**.

20. The secretary will agree _____ overtime if we can take her home after she is finished with her work.
✓ **D) to work**
Agree is followed by **to** + infinitive: **agree to work overtime**. Not **working**, because **agree** does not take the -ing form.

21. The landlord said that he regretted _____ us that he would have to increase our rent.
✓ **B) having to inform**
Regret + -ing is about something you are sorry about: **regretted having to inform us**. The sentence needs an active form because the landlord informs us. **Having been informed** and **to be informed** are passive, so they are wrong.

22. I dread _____ of the possibility that we might miss _____ the plane because of a flat tyre.
✓ **A) to think / catching**
I dread to think is a fixed expression used when you are afraid to imagine something bad. **Miss** is followed by the -ing form: **miss catching the plane**. Not **to catch**, because **miss** does not take to + infinitive.

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